

BLACK BEAR ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-27-4

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT NR.: 17.0

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Units 1, 2, and 3

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

PERIOD: 1 July 2000–2001

The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region 1

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Regionwide Activities

Write an annual survey and inventory performance report. This draft satisfies the activity as described.

Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management. During fall 2000 Region I staff provided detailed information to the Board of Game on black bear population information and harvest trends, notably that of Unit 3. The Board adopted a guideline harvest level of 120 bears for the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.

Monitor the hunt and seal all black bears harvested and presented for sealing. ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff as well as FWP Troopers and designated sealing agents sealed black bears harvested in the region. Area biologists and other staff tracked harvest trends and collected biological samples as possible.

Measure all skulls and determine the sex of sealed bears. Black bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed. Except in cases where the hunter damaged the skull or external sex identifiers were removed, this data was collected on every bear presented for sealing. Over 1,000 bears were harvested and sealed in Region I.

Unit 1C

Reduce by 50% from 1999/2000 the number of nuisance bear problems resulting from improper refuse handling and disposal. Unfortunately we were unable to meet this goal. In fact, the number of bears killed in 00/01 was considerably higher than in 99/00 (5 vs. 1), which is one measure of this goal. We will be dropping this as a goal in the future because it is based on

circumstances that are mostly beyond our control. Although our wildlife education efforts definitely contribute to solution to this issue, municipal ordinances, private garbage management techniques, and enforcement efforts by FWP and community police departments play a large role in how this matter gets resolved.

Regional Segment Period Project Costs: \$72.0

Submitted by:

Bruce Dinneford
Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 2: Draft a black bear management report.

Black bear draft management reports will be completed during spring 2002.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

The Board of Game addressed proposals regarding black bears in Region 2 during its spring 2001 meeting.

Activity 4: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

Preliminary harvest information was available from sealing reports.

Activity 5: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Activities by Unit

UNIT 6

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2000/01 harvest was:

Males 256	Females 59	Total 316
-----------	------------	-----------

UNITS 7 AND 15

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

Preliminary 2000/01 harvest:

Males 208	Females 84	Total 302
-----------	------------	-----------

UNITS 11 AND 13

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2000/01 harvest:

Unit 13	Males 61	Females 33	Total 94
Unit 11	Males 5	Females 6	Total 11

UNIT 14

Completed 1999–2000 annual performance report.

Activity 2:

Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management. Presented report to Board of Game at Spring 2001 meeting for regulation change consideration. Three proposals were considered and 2 specific for Unit 14C were adopted.

Activity 3: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2000/01 hunter harvest:

Males 53 Females 19 Unknown 1 Total 74

An additional 18 black bears (12 males, 3 females, 3 unknown sex) were shot in defense of life or property and 5 (3 males and 2 unk) were killed by vehicles and trains.

Activity 4: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Approximately 160 black bears were sealed in Palmer and Anchorage.

UNIT 16

Activity 1: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

Presented report to Board of Game at Spring 2001 meeting for regulation change consideration.

Activity 4: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2000/01 harvest:

	16A	Males 31	Females 15	Total 46
1	6B	Males 67	Females 34	Total 100

Participated in brown/black bear survey technique investigation in northern Unit 16, 14B and 13E: (85 hours).

Activity 5: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

In Palmer and Anchorage sealed approximately 160 black bears from Unit 16 and other units.

UNIT 17

Activity 1: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2000/01 harvest:

Males 8	Females 2	Total 10
---------	-----------	----------

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

Palmer staff participated in brown/black bear survey technique investigation in northern Unit 16, 14B and 13E: (85 hours).

Segment Period Project Costs:

Fiscal year 2000–2001	Region			Total
	II	III	V	
Planned	43.9			
Actual	43.8			

Submitted by:

Mike McDonald
Assistant Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Annual performance reports were completed for all units.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game.

Unit 19 harvest information was provided to the Board of Game during a special meeting in May 2001. No information from other units was provided because Region III was not on the board's regular schedule for this year.

Activities by Unit

Unit 12

ACTIVITY 1: SEAL BEARS AND ANALYZE HARVEST DATA.

We sealed 47 black bears (66% male) and updated harvest tables that will be included in the 2002 Unit 12 black bear management report.

We administered 30 black bear bait station permits. During the permitting process we had each hunter precisely map the location of his/her bait sites to monitor distribution of hunters.

OTHER UNIT 12 ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY FEDERAL AID ON THIS PROJECT:

We reviewed management objective using harvest statistics, hunter surveys, and departmental sightings of black bears throughout the unit. Based on this information, no revisions to the current objective were necessary.

We monitored blueberry abundance within the Tanana River valley, using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect). This was the first year of monitoring. The intent is to monitor these plots annually and develop a blueberry abundance index to compare between years and between habitat types. These data will be used to try to determine if there is a relationship between berry abundance and black bear harvest and defense of live and property kills.

Units 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20F

Activity 1: Seal bears and analyze harvest data.

Bears were sealed, and the harvest included 203 males and 110 females.

We also registered 837 black bear bait stations to 555 individuals.

Activity 2: Submit teeth from bears harvested in Units 20A and 20B for age analysis.

We sent 305 teeth to Matson's Laboratory for age analysis.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

We gave information and suggestions to members of the public who were concerned with black bear problems.

Unit 20D

ACTIVITY 1: SEAL BEARS AND ANALYZE HARVEST DATA.

Harvest was monitored and analyzed by sealing bears. Preliminary analysis of sealing data indicates that 14 bears were killed in southern Unit 20D, 9 in northern Unit 20D, 1 was killed in an unknown location, and 1 was killed in defense of life and property.

Preliminary data indicates that black bear bait station permits were issued to 37 hunters.

Unit 20E

Activity 1: Seal bears and analyze harvest data.

We sealed 16 black bears (88% male) and updated harvest tables to be included in the 2002 Unit 20E black bear management report.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

We reviewed population management objective using harvest statistics and hunter surveys. Based on this information, no revisions to the current objective were necessary.

We administered 3 black bear bait station permits. During the permitting process we had each hunter precisely map the location of his/her bait sites to monitor hunter distribution.

We monitored blueberry abundance along the Taylor Highway using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect). This was the first year of monitoring. The intent is to monitor these plots annually and develop a blueberry abundance index to compare between years and between habitat types. These data will be used to try to determine if there is a relationship between berry abundance and black bear harvest and DLP kills.

Segment Period Costs:

<i>Expenditure</i>	Personnel months	Personnel costs	Operating costs	Total
<i>Planned</i>	4.5	25.2	1.7	26.9
<i>Actual</i>	2.2	17.5	1.1	18.6
<i>Difference</i>	2.3	7.7	0.6	8.3

Explanation:

Less personnel time than expected was required to seal bears and administer bait station permits. Costs of sealing bears were also less than expected because some sealers that formerly paid for their services volunteered their time.

Statewide Segment Period Costs: \$134, 400

Submitted by:

Roy A. Nowlin

Management Coordinator